

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP (CWG)
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 1995, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Moss Landing Harbor District Office

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Conservation Working Group met on Tuesday, April 18, 1995 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. Ms. Rachel Saunders, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. Working group members present were: Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter); David Iverson (CMG - HMB); Jane DeLay and Mark Pickett (NOAA/Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary); Rick Starr (Sea Grant Extension Program); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); Daphne White (League of Women Voters); Milos Radakovich (American Cetacean Society); and Jack Wickham (Sierra Club - Ventana Chapter).

The Chair provided members with the following material:

- 1) a Public Outreach Database prepared by Dr. Holly Price;
- 2) a copy of the Department of Fish and Game's A Review of Marine Patrol Boat Operations, prepared by E.C. Fullerton, July 11, 1994;
- 3) an outline of the roles of the Sanctuary Education Panel;
- 4) an outline of the Research Activity Panel defined roles; and
- 5) a draft letter by Mr. Jack Wickham concerning CWG support for undersea noise pollution research along with a memorandum of what the Sanctuary Advisory Council can do. (See Attachments)

I. CWG Administration

✓ The minutes from the 3/21/95 meeting were approved without corrections;

✓ The meeting agenda was reviewed and a discussion of sewer authority mid-coast violations was added;

✓ The May meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. Items to be included on the agenda are as follows:

- * Sanctuary Celebrations;
- *Sanctuary enforcement;
- *EPA - report on the Washington, D.C. meeting by Ellen Faurot-Daniels;
- *Pajaro follow-up and status; and,
- *discussion of coastal development concerns.

✓ Announcements -

- 1) there will be a Watershed conference sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation (DATE, PLACE?);
- 2) the Education Panel meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Moss Landing MBARI;

- 3) the next Research Activity Panel meeting will be Friday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at California Fish and Game;
- 4) the next SAC meeting is Monday, April 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Point Lobos State Reserve, Hudson House;
- 5) Earth Day is Saturday, April 22;
- 6) Friends of the Sea Otter will have a presentation with special guest Jane Goodall on May 9 at Sherwood Hall - tickets are \$25, and May 10 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium - tickets are \$75; and,
- 7) The League of Women Voters will have a general meeting on water quality and supply, reclamation, reuse, and management - 12:00 p.m. on May 20, at Mariposa Hall in Monterey.

II. Man-made Noise and Impact on the Sanctuary

Mr. Jack Wickham presented a draft letter addressed to the SAC along with a memorandum of suggested action regarding vessel traffic noise pollution. (See Attachment) Comments on the documents are as follows:

- 1) Take the letter to the Sanctuary Education Panel and the Research Activity Panel to gain their support before taking it to the SAC. Rick Starr offered to bring it up at the next RAP meeting;
- 2) Be careful about alarming the fishing industry by mentioning it specifically as a source of noise pollution. The language of the letter should be more generalized. It would be better to gain the fishing industry's support -- convince them that noise pollution may be a possible threat to the fish supply -- and bring them on as allies;
- 3) Mention that the ATOC controversy heightened public awareness of noise impacts in the Sanctuary and capitalize on the current interest that may be supportive of noise pollution research;
- 4) Reverse the order of bullet points #1 and #3 -- first educate the public about the issues to generate support;
- 5) Organize a symposium on undersea noise pollution and its levels within the Sanctuary;
- 6) Use convincing statistics to verify statements; and,
- 7) Promote research to find out if it is a problem.

The working group agreed that the issue was important. The Chair directed that the draft letter and memorandum will be circulated among the other working groups to obtain consensus and comments before taking the matter to the SAC as a collaborative effort.

The Chair indicated that she would mention the process and the CWG's endorsement of the project as part of the working group report at the next SAC meeting.

III. Report from Sanctuary Office

Mark Pickett provided an update on Sanctuary activities as follows:

- 1) Jane DeLay's responsibilities include attending working group and SAC meetings, writing and distributing minutes, and coordinating SAC meetings and events;
- 2) Due to excessive work loads, Sanctuary staff are being forced to adopt a "just say no policy" for any request outside of their normal responsibilities. Mark is worried about "burn-out" in several employees;
- 3) Mr. Kip Evans has been hired as the new Education and WQPP assistant and begins working on May 8;
- 4) There is a Research Coordinator contract available beginning this July. CWG members are encouraged to inform colleagues who may be qualified to contact Aaron King at the Sanctuary office. April 28 is the deadline for application;
- 5) The R/V McArthur cruises were productive. Bottom samples were taken from San Francisco to Monterey and videos of marine life from the area around the Pinnacles. The restricted area off of Fort Ord was avoided.

The McArthur is scheduled to return in May, at which time they hope to do some side-scanning at Fort Ord.

The Sanctuary expects a report from USGS.

The CWG requested that there be a press release on the research results once we have them;

- 6) The ATOC Final Environmental Impact Statement Draft is currently in the office and is being reviewed. The Sanctuaries and Reserves Division will provide official comments at a later date;
- 7) The shark chumming public comment period closed on April 14. The Sanctuary is analyzing the remarks. The CWG requested that there be an update on the comments at the next meeting;
- 8) Sanctuary Internet capabilities are almost on-line;
- 9) Liz Love will be back in mid-May;
- 10) The Sanctuary will participate in Earth Day;
- 11) Various permits are being reviewed including: a buoy for the tri-athlon and overflights for filming the Big Sur Marathon;
- 12) Sanctuary enforcement is still unresolved. The funds are available pending the adoption of a realistic enforcement plan;
- 13) A Sanctuary license plate finalist has been sent in for production of a proto-type. If the design can be reproduced in a quality manner, the winner will be announced and marketing can begin;

14) Pat Cotter has been tracking the flood impact and will provide a report at the SAC meeting on Monday;

15) VIP visits: a Congressional staffer from Senator Hollings' office will be in Monterey on Thursday, April 20; Dr. Baker, Director of NOAA and Dr. Dale Evans will be visiting the office on Friday, April 28;

16) The Vessel Traffic Survey has been finalized. Cover letters will go on for approval from Secretary of Commerce Brown and Secretary of Transportation Pena. Once signed the report can go forward to Congress;

17) The Naval Reserve Center in Pacific Grove will belong to the Sanctuary. PFEG moved in last week;

18) The process for appointing a new SRD Chief has been postponed. The CWG requested that Terry brief the SAC at the next meeting on the status of a new SRD Chief. The CWG would be willing to make a recommendation if Washington, D.C needs comments from the field;

19) Working group members expressed interest in the status of the jet ski regulations. The group requested that the Sanctuary coordinate a method of enforcement and organize a public education plan to inform citizens in a positive manner about the regulations and their meaning. The CWG would like to be involved in any program the Sanctuary implements and emphasized that the next 30 days were critical. The CWG further suggested that a press release define the regulations and the zone. A map should be included;

20) The Sanctuary office will be involved in the annual Sanctuary Celebration sponsored by Santa Cruz and Monterey.

IV. 1996 Sanctuary Conference

Organizers for the Research Symposium decided to move the conference away from the Anniversary celebrations in the fall and to combine education, conservation, and research interests into one event. The theme for the symposium will be site characterizations and computer visualization. Preferred dates by the CWG are Feb. 9 - 10, 1996.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA - CWG members were asked to provide feedback:

Friday

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Reflecting Awards (presented by AMBAG)

7:00 p.m. - "Ricketts Memorial Lecture"

Saturday

8:15 a.m. - Opening remarks

8:30 a.m. - Plenary Session: "Awe and Wonder of the Sanctuary"

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions:

1. MB Research Symposium - site characterization

2. non-scientific
3. education workshop (?)

12:00 p.m. - Poster Session (Graduate students can display their research on a rotating basis at places around the Sanctuary.)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Public Session: "What Sanctuary Means From Perspectives" (Research, Education, Conservation, & Business)

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions:

1. Research-computer visualization
2. Education

4:00 p.m. - End

CWG members had the following suggestions:

- 1) The 10:00 a.m. session should include the aesthetic value of the Sanctuary;
- 2) Define the value of the Sanctuary from a global perspective as a contribution to global awareness;
- 3) Rearrange the agenda to put the public "Awe and Wonder" Session earlier in the day;
- 4) Create a display of brief quotes from citizens living in the area about what a Sanctuary means;
- 5) Let the afternoon session be a "wrap-up" of the morning presentation of "What a Sanctuary Means to Me";
- 6) Institutionalize a common definition of Sanctuary;
- 7) Educate the public about the administrative structure in place for the management of the Bay.
- 8) Discuss what is fundamental on a global scale to the elements that make and protect the Sanctuary;
- 9) Start with the "big picture" and then zero in on the Sanctuary and its relationship to the planet. Illustrate a symbiotic system;
- 10) Introduce paradigms that are used to understand the Sanctuary and its goals;
- 11) Demonstrate the Sanctuary as a dynamic environment:
 - Uncontrollable forces:
 - * vents
 - * El Nino
 - * floods
 - Controllable forces:
 - * recreation
 - * business
 - * research

V. Issues, Updates, and Discussion

- ˆ Floods of 1995 - no discussion;
- ˆ Devil's Slide Alternatives (See Attachment) - the Sanctuary has become a key element of concern as alternatives to the Devil's Slide by-pass involve moving tons of dirt. The issue is a "lightning rod"

in San Mateo County with many individuals preferring the Tunnel as the most environmentally acceptable alternative , but cognizant that there is not a lot of political support for it. CALTRANS and the Board of Supervisors have rejected it for economic reasons. The CWG recommended that the matter should once again be addressed at the SAC level. Rachel will raise the issue at the upcoming SAC meeting and with Ed Ueber, Manager, Cordell Bank/Gulf of the Farallones NMS;

- ‘ Shark Chumming - no discussion;
- ‘ WQPP - see attachment;
- ‘ SOS Sanctuary Steward Program - will be addressed at the next meeting;
- ‘ Others - no discussion.

VI. Sanctuary Advisory Council Report

The meeting agenda items were announced with special mention of the scheduled Advisory Council annual report to the Sanctuary Manager.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator
Conservation Working Group
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